

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



**Week 2 Summary**

1. December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Joint Agricultural Weather Facility states that moderate to heavy precipitation has improved winter grain prospects with much needed rain. A pair of slow-moving storm systems generated heavy rain and snow in the mountain regions over the last week (Figure 1).
2. AWiFS IRSP6 satellite data provided by the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) continues to be collected over Iraq. An image acquired on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 over the northern winter grains regions shows the recent precipitation events. The snowmelt can be beneficial for crops and recharging the lower watersheds in northern Iraq, but could potentially lead to flooding in the early spring months<sup>1</sup> (Figure 2).
3. The most recent acquisition of Quickbird high resolution imagery was on November 24<sup>th</sup> in the Ninawa and Dahuk provinces. The imagery consistently showed field preparation and a later start of season as compared to the previous year. However, two more acquisitions are scheduled by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in the Dahuk, Arbil, and At'Tamin provinces. The combination of these significant precipitation events and newer image acquisitions may reveal the first signs of greening in the rainfed winter grain regions. This will conclude the first round of high resolution imagery collection with the second round commencing on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.

<sup>1</sup> February 2006, Snowmelt in the mountains of northern and days of heavy rainfall in early February caused river flooding which forced as many as 7,500 families from their homes in northern and southeastern Iraq (ICRC, IFRC). The governorates most affected include Arbil, Salah adDin, At'Tamin, Diyala, and Maysan.

**FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)**  
**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**  
**International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program**

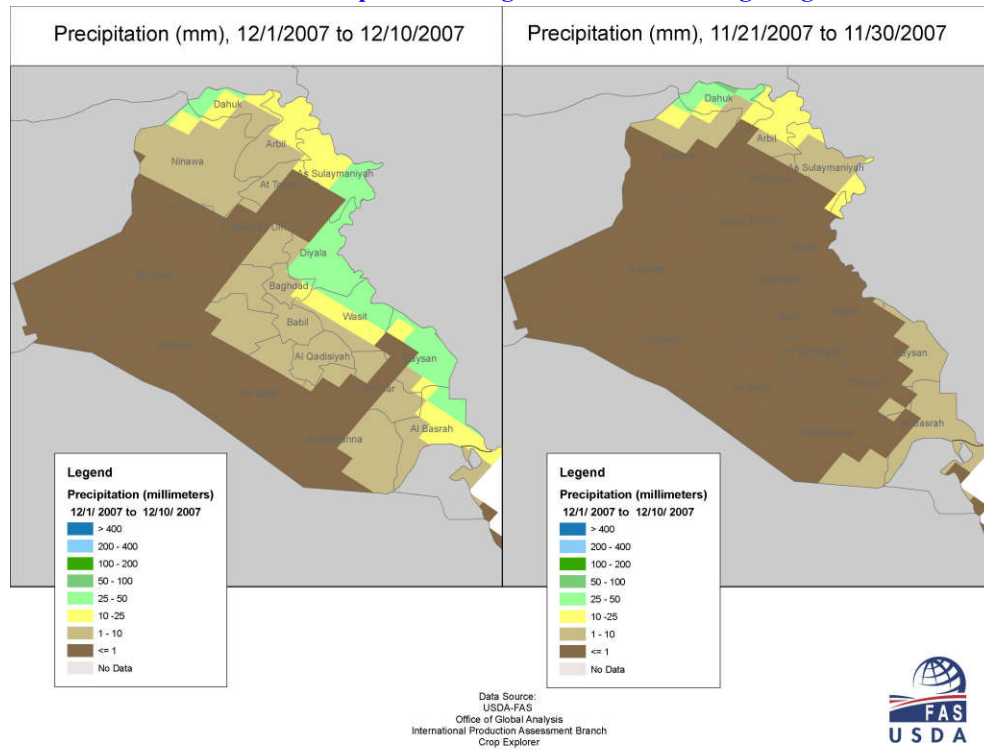


Figure1: Precipitation has significantly increased in the last 10 days for the Northern provinces.

**SNOW COVER IN NORTHERN IRAQ WATERSHEDS (NOV. 4th, 2007)**

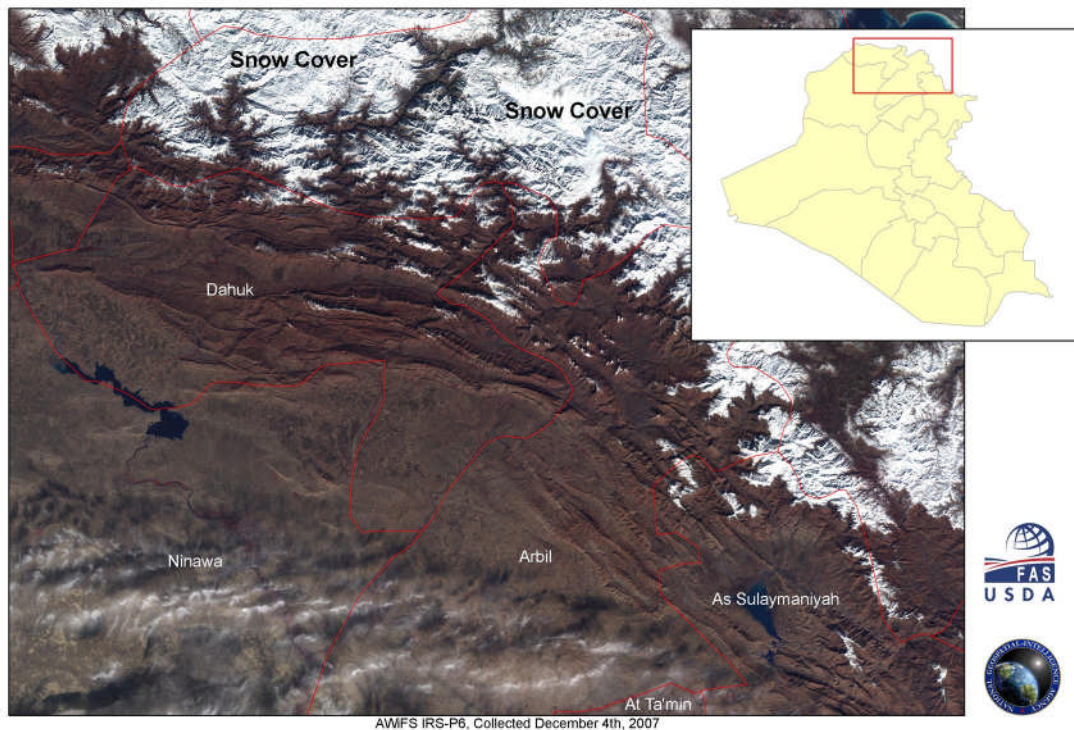


Figure2: Increased rainfall and snowmelt have boosted topsoil moisture in the northern rainfed regions of Iraq.